

Should you to return to school?

Adults Returning to School was developed by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) to help you answer that question. KHEAA is the state agency that administers state financial aid to help families meet higher education expenses. A college education can help you become a more informed citizen, critical thinker or well-rounded person. Many adults, however, return to school because they want to change their lives, because an event has already changed their lives or because they need new skills to get the job they want.

To learn more, click on

**plan for
college**

at GoHigherKY.org

Questions to think about

Whatever your reasons for returning to school, talk it over with those affected by your decision.

- Do you have the support of your family?
- If you're working, will more education improve your chances for promotion?
- Will your employer provide tuition assistance?
- Can you balance family, work, school and other responsibilities?
- Can you take classes when your schedule permits, or can your schedule be adjusted?
- How competitive is the job market where you live or want to live?
- Can you devote the time and energy you need to complete the program of study?

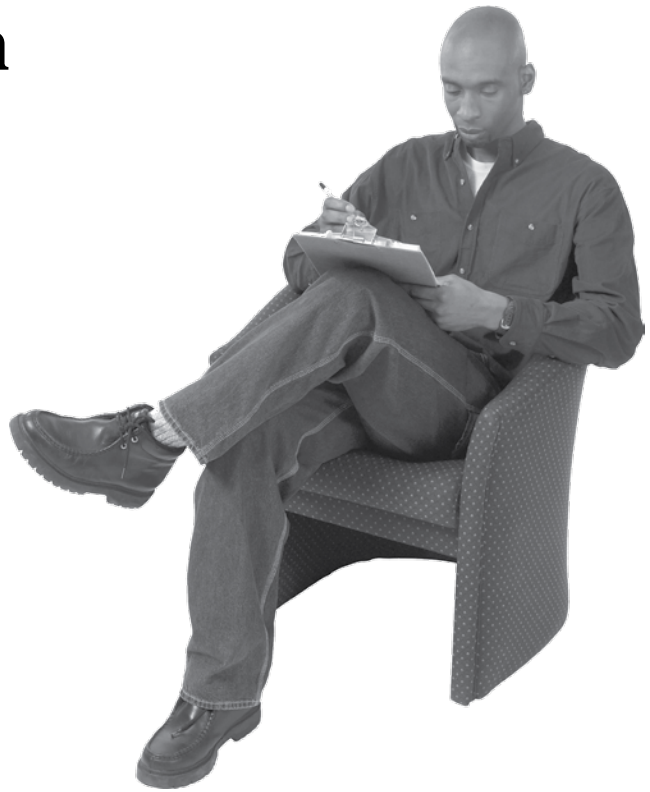
Most adult students have responsibilities not only to their education but also to their family and employer. Share your plans and expectations with others. Ask them to share their concerns with you. Communication can help you balance these responsibilities.

Are you too old to go back to school?

Adults who return to school often worry about their ability to do well in courses. This is normal, so give yourself time to adjust. Many adult students actually do better in school because they're more committed to attending classes, learning as much as possible and achieving their educational and career goals.

Scheduling options

You can go to school full-time or part-time. If you can only take evening and weekend classes, online courses and correspondence courses, can you take enough hours to be a full-time student? Some schools advise students who work more than 20 or 30 hours per week not to enroll for more than 6 or 9 credit hours a semester



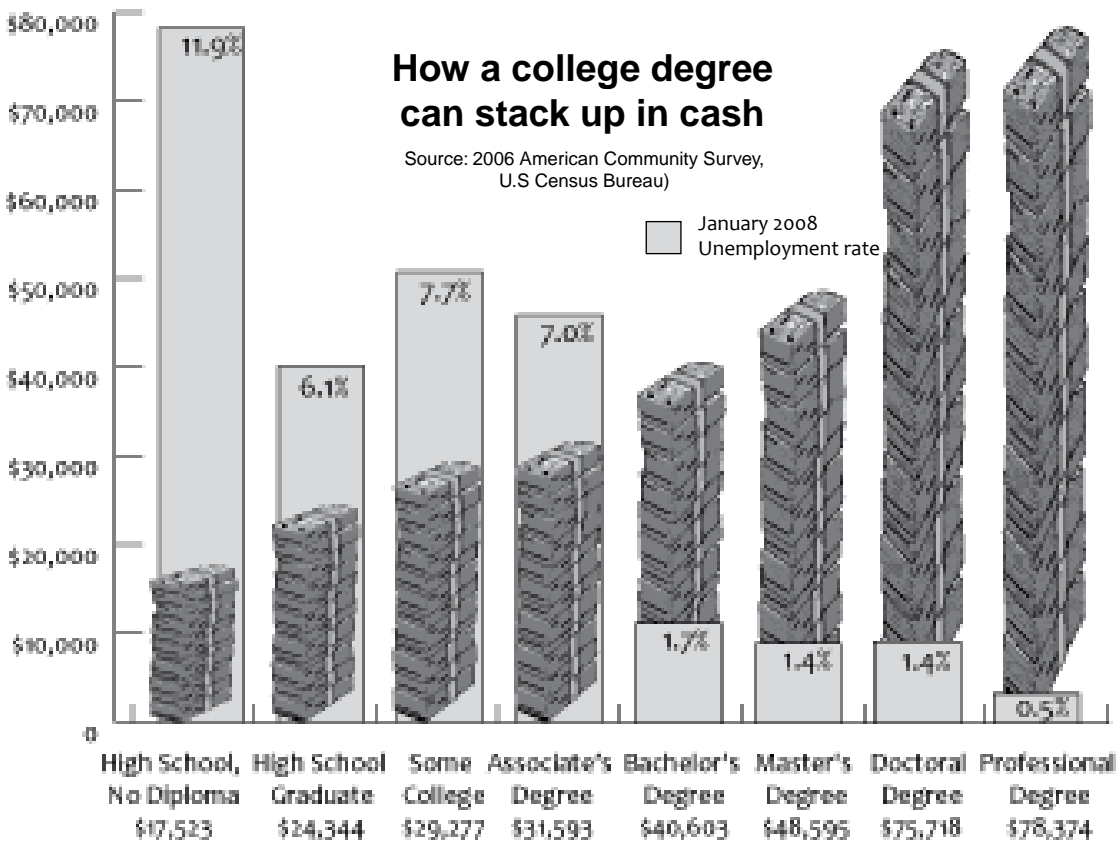
Colleges that hold classes on a semester schedule usually consider 12 credit hours full-time for undergraduate students. Nine hours is generally considered full-time for graduate students. How much time you can spend studying is another consideration. Generally, you should allow six hours of study each week for each three-credit-hour course. You may want to take one class to see how you do first. See Part III, beginning on page 63, or check with the school's admissions office to find out what scheduling options are available.

Can you pay for your courses? Part-time students are eligible for fewer sources of financial aid than full-timers.

School support designed for you

Many schools have special services for adult students. The school's catalog should tell you what services are available and which office to contact for each service. Most schools have a financial aid office that can help you complete financial aid forms and will offer you a financial aid package of grants, loans, work-study and/or scholarships based on your need.

Adults Returning to School will help you become familiar with the many sources of assistance and opportunities for you to achieve your higher education goal. (For information about programs and services at a specific Kentucky school, see Part III, beginning on page 63.)



This graph gives the 2006 median earnings of people in Kentucky over age 25, both sexes, who worked year-round at a full-time job, based on their level of education, compared to the unemployment rate for each level of education. A median is a middle value, so the number of people earning less than the median is equal to the number of people earning more than the median.

What are your interests?

If you need help choosing a career, ask yourself:

- What am I good at?
- What are my best qualities?
- What subjects did I like in high school?
- What are my favorite hobbies or activities?
- Do I like to work with people, animals or machinery?
- What about writing, math, science, computers?
- Do I like working indoors or outside?
- Do I have a special artistic or musical ability?

To learn more, click on

**career
center**

at GoHigherKY.org

Other sources of job information

To learn more about jobs, you may want to:

- Talk with people who earn their living in jobs that interest you. Ask them where they went to school, what they thought of the school's program, what they do on the job and if they enjoy their work.
- See if your public library has books about jobs that interest you or how to choose a career.
- Check the "Help Wanted" section of newspapers to see what jobs are available in your area. Keep

in mind that the job market is changing. As technology changes, some jobs are phased out and new career options become available.

- Write to Kentucky Career Resources, 500 Mero Street, Room 2019, Frankfort, KY 40601-1957; call 502.564.4286; or click on Kentucky Career Profiles at www.workforcekentucky.ky.gov.
- Contact an Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) or Career Connections Assessment Center (CCAC). EOC counselors can administer assessments to help adults determine their career and educational goals. By determining your aptitudes, interests and basic academic skill levels, CCAC counselors can identify a wide range of careers you might be interested in pursuing. Your counselor will help you develop a plan to reach your career goal. For more information, contact the CCAC nearest you. You'll find contact information on the next page.

Career Connections Assessment Centers

Big Sandy Community and Technical College –
Mayo Campus
513 Third Street, Paintsville, KY 41240-1008
Contact Deborah Castle 606.788.2810

Bluegrass Community and Technical College
164 Opportunity Way, Room 110, Lexington, KY
40511
Contact Mary Maggard, 859.246.6671 or Debby
Vantress 859.246.6670 or Sandra Muncy
859.246.6669

Bowling Green Technical College
1845 Loop Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42104
Contact Tonissa Sweat, 270.901.1036

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College
Assessment Center
610 College Street Road, Elizabethtown, KY 42701
Call 270.769.2371, ext. 68809

Gateway Community and Technical College
1025 Amsterdam Road, Covington, KY 41011
Contact Cindy Sproehnle 859.442.1159 or Eileen
Arnold 859.442.1625.

Jefferson Community and Technical College
727 West Chestnut, Louisville, KY 40203
Contact Greg Guinn 502.213.4100

Madisonville Community College Assessment Center
100 School Avenue, Madisonville, KY 42431
Contact Deborah Morrow 270.824.1701
or Gloria Faulk 270.824.1702

Somerset Community College – Laurel Campus
235 South Laurel Road, London, KY 40744
Contact Terri Flannary 606.878.1421

Somerset Community College – South Campus
808 Monticello Street, Somerset, KY 42501
Contact April Russell 606.451.6850
E-mail april.russell@kctcs.edu
Fax 606.451.6941

Vocabulary

Higher education has its own vocabulary, so you may run across these words.

Associate's: A degree that usually takes 2–3 years to complete. Some lead to jobs, others prepare students to transfer to a 4-year school.

Bachelor's: A degree that usually takes 4 years to complete.

Certificate: A nondegree program, usually in a technical or vocational field, that takes 6–18 months to complete.

College: Any school that offers degrees or a large subdivision of a university, like the College of Business or the College of Arts and Sciences. In *Getting In*, we use *college* to mean any education you get after high school.

Doctorate: A degree that usually takes 3 years after a bachelor's to complete.

Higher education: Any education after high school. We'll usually just use *college*.

Institution: Often used to refer to a school that offers higher education. Again, we'll use *college*.

Master's: A degree that takes at least a year after the bachelor's to complete.

Matriculation: Another word for *enrollment*.

Postbaccalaureate: After a bachelor's degree.

Postsecondary: Any education after high school. We usually use *college*.

Professional degree: A degree in such fields as dentistry, law and medicine. These usually take at least 6 years to complete.

Proprietary school: What most people call a trade school, which is what we'll generally use *trade school*.

Technical school: A school that provides training in technical fields. We most often use the general term *trade school* because that's more familiar.

University: A school that offers degrees beyond a bachelor's, such as a master's or a doctorate. We usually use *college*.